

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

10

INFORMATION

TOPIC State of Iowa Public Drinking Water Program: 2005 Annual Compliance Report

The Department is submitting the *State of Iowa Public Drinking Water Program 2005 Annual Compliance Report* to the Environmental Protection Commission for information purposes.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 require the Department to issue an annual report of the SDWA violations in the state. This report fulfills the reporting requirement in Iowa for the 2005 calendar year.

Report highlights:

- The number of health-based standards violations and the number of systems with violations both slightly decreased from 2004 levels, but remained on the fairly level seven-year trend (8 to 10% of systems that are not in compliance). The three standards that were violated most frequently were coliform bacteria (44.8% of the total number of violations), total trihalomethanes (19.0%), and nitrate nitrogen (12.5%).
- The disinfectants/disinfection byproducts rule was a new rule with many new requirements that was implemented for most of Iowa's community and non-transient noncommunity systems in 2004. Calendar year 2005 was the first year under this new rule for most of Iowa's systems to determine compliance with the disinfection byproducts that are formed when carbon in the water source reacts with the chlorine disinfectant. As a result, there was an increase in the number of violations of the trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids standards. The challenge now for the systems in violation will be to reduce the levels of byproducts while maintaining a disinfectant level to provide microbial protection.
- The number of major monitoring and reporting violations increased for the first time since 2002, although the number of systems with at least one major monitoring or reporting violation increased only slightly. The overall percentage of systems in compliance with all major monitoring and reporting violations remained at the 81% level, a flat trend since 2003. The increase in the number of monitoring violations is partially attributable to three systems that didn't collect the required volatile and synthetic organic chemical samples, both of which are multi-contaminant parameters. Disinfectant monitoring and reporting, required as part of the disinfectants/disinfection byproducts rule previously mentioned, also provide many more opportunities for violation by the systems.
- There were 27 systems that did not have a certified operator during the year. This is an increase from previous years, but is more likely due to better identification of systems without an operator by DNR staff than an actual increase.

This report was prepared by the Department's Water Supply Engineering & Operations Sections in the Water Quality Bureau of the Environmental Services Division. Development of the report was accomplished through the use of the state water supply database. The printed report will be

provided to EPA by the July 1st deadline. An electronic copy will also be provided to the Governor, legislative officials, EPA, and members of the SDWA Advisory Group.

The electronic report will be available on the IDNR's website at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/drinking/reports.html>. Copies of the report are also available to the public upon request.

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